

Newsletter 1, August 2013

Introducing the Q4i project



A new LLP Project working on quality and innovation in European schools.

The Q4i project, which started in December 2012, aims to develop, test and mainstream a quality development approach for schools that includes a strong commitment to innovation and that is based on the participation of all key stakeholders: students, teachers and parents, employers and representatives of local community. Q4i is a project designed to ensure high quality education while innovating educational practices. Using the innovative Q4i processes will lead to higher quality standards and the ability to adapt to constant changes.

The Q4i approach addresses four *engines of change*, used at a different degree according to the specific situation. These drivers are an integral part 21st century skills map.

1. **Key competences for lifelong learning** should become a pillar of school education achievements, and in particular the learning to learn competence should be a main focus of efforts.
2. **The use of ICT to support learning processes** and to integrate the informal learning of digital natives should become an integral part of school education, considering the specific value of ICT in supporting the acquisition of key competences and learning/working processes.
3. **Creativity and innovation attitudes and skills.** Creativity should be understood as a factor interacting in all areas, required for our personal fulfilment, fundamental in making innovation possible in each area, and essential for a social dimension that allows inter-cultural positive interactions.
4. **Inter-cultural learning skills** Schools have a role to play in the development of an intercultural society equipping pupils with intercultural skills essentials to appreciate the richness of diversity of culture but also to raise their awareness of their own culture.

Partners

- Generalitat Valenciana (Spain)
- MENON (Belgium)
- EFQUEL (Belgium)
- ESHA (Netherlands)
- mt (Spain)
- Scierter (Italy)
- FiaTest (Romania)
- EURIDIT (Belgium)



www.q4i-schools.eu

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Commission

Expected results:

- A set of national reports on school innovation in different EU countries
- The synthesis report on school innovation, that will set the basis for the model creation
- The Q4I model for validation, which will be used in the pilots and will be assessed in cooperation with school stakeholders
- The Q4I Conference, that will be the launching moment of the proposed network of schools
- The piloting report, which will present findings, reflections and lessons learned during the five Q4I pilots
- The final Q4I model and tools, which is the main long term project outcome
- The Q4I Manifesto and the network development plan, which are at the basis of the Q4I network that represents the sustainable legacy of the project

The Q4I model for school innovation

Q4I provides a new approach to schools development respecting and building on the specificity of the world of school education. The Q4I model addresses all the areas where change is needed and all the processes that must be affected by change. This differentiates Q4I from many existing approaches, which focus on a single dimension of school without being able to have an impact at the level of the organisation.

The Q4I model is based on six Focus Areas and four Engines of Change.

The Q4I **Focus Areas** (corresponding to the macro criteria in the „EFQM quality terminology“) these are:

1. Strategy Development
2. Leadership
3. Community involvement
4. Innovation Process
5. Key Performance Indicators
6. Assessment, Monitoring and Improvement

The Q4I Engines of change are:

1. Key competences for lifelong learning.
2. The use of ICT to support learning processes.
3. Creativity and innovation attitudes and skills.
4. Inter-cultural learning skills

Areas and engines of change are interconnected within the model. The core of the model is the Innovation Process (where the four engines are placed), enabled by Strategy Development through Leadership and Community Involvement, measured by Key Performance Indicators and monitored by Assessment, Monitoring and Improvement. The Q4I Model is based on a non-prescriptive spirit with a high degree of adaptability

- The focus is on results, not on procedures and tools.
- Organizations are encouraged to develop and demonstrate creative, adaptive, and flexible approaches for meeting improvement and innovation objectives.
- The support is intended to foster incremental and major (“breakthrough”) improvements, as well as basic change through innovation.
- The selection of tools and techniques depends on the school organization type and size, organizational relationships, organization’s stage of development, teachers and staff capabilities and responsibilities.
- A focus on common criteria, rather than on common procedures, fosters understanding, communication, sharing and integration, while supporting innovation and diversity in approaches.



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